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Joint Congressional Committee on Central Intelligence

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Speech
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD -- July 15, 1953.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President: Because of the very nature of the Central Intelligence Agency, I think that it is imperative that a Joint Congressional Committee be established for the purpose of making continued studies of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and problems related to the gathering of intelligence affecting the national security. I feel that there should be a Joint Congressional Committee authorized, and that the CIA should, as a matter of law, keep that Committee fully and currently informed with respect to its activities. All bills, resolutions, and other matters in the Senate or in the House of Representatives relating primarily to the CIA, should be referred to the Joint Committee; and the Joint Committee should, from time to time, make whatever reports are necessary to the Congress concerning its relationship with the CIA.

The bill, which I have introduced, would establish a Joint Committee, composed of nine members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and nine members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In each instance, not more than five members shall be of the same political party.

The Joint Committee or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof would be authorized to hold such hearings, to sit and act at such places and times, to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such oaths, to take such testimony, to procure such printing and binding, and make such expenditures as it deems advisable. The Committee is, in addition, empowered to appoint its staff; and is authorized to utilize the services, information, facilities, and personnel of the departments and establishments of the Government.

Mr. President, in my opinion, the CIA is in somewhat the same category as the Atomic Energy Commission; and just as a special committee, with well defined authority and powers has been created on a joint congressional

basis to oversee and supervise the interests of the AEC, so I believe should a Joint Congressional Committee be created for the same purpose in connection with the CIA. I realize full well, because of the very nature of the duties of the CIA, that there has been no public scrutiny of its activities. This may be necessary in this day and age, but I do believe that a Joint Congressional Committee should be created for the purpose of seeing that good management is maintained in the CIA and also to keep a constant check on its intelligence policies. It is well too that this Joint Committee should be in a position to criticize any mistakes which the CIA may make.

Mr. President, the purpose of the Joint Congressional Committee would be in a sense to safeguard as well as to supervise the policies of the CIA. In my opinion the Congress should, because of the very nature of the work of the CIA, do everything in its power to protect its activities and to make it possible that the CIA, as an organization, will not lose its effectiveness, and will be able to continue its extremely important work in such a manner as to warrant the necessary amount of freedom of activity and the necessary security to perform the duties allocated to it under the law.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MR. MANSFIELD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),
That there is hereby established a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence to be composed of nine Members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and nine Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In each instance not more than five members shall be members of the same political party.

Sec. 2. The joint committee shall make continuing studies of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and of problems relating to the gathering of intelligence affecting the national security and of its coordination and utilization by the various departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the Government. The Central Intelligence Agency shall keep the joint committee fully and currently informed with respect to its activities. All bills, resolutions, and other matters in the Senate or the House of Representatives relating primarily to the Central Intelligence Agency shall be referred to the joint committee. The members of the joint committee who are Members of the Senate shall from time to time report to the Senate, and the members of the joint committee who are Members of the House of Representatives shall from time to time report to the House, by bill or otherwise, their recommendations with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of their respective Houses which are (1) referred to the joint committee or (2) otherwise within the jurisdiction of the joint committee.

Sec. 3. Vacancies in the membership of the joint committee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the joint committee, and shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original selection. The joint committee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members.

Sec. 4. The joint committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings, to sit and act at such places and times, to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such oaths, to take such testimony, to procure such printing and binding and to make such expenditures as it deems advisable. The cost of stenographic services to report such hearings shall not be in excess of 25 cents per hundred words.

Sec. 5. The joint committee is empowered to appoint such experts, consultants, technicians, and clerical and stenographic assistants as it deems necessary and advisable. The committee is authorized to utilize the services, information, facilities, and personnel of the departments and establishments of the Government.

Sec. 6. The expenses of the joint committee, which shall not exceed \$ per year, shall be paid one-half from the contingent fund of the Senate and one-half from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives upon vouchers signed by the chairman. Disbursements to pay such expenses shall be made by the Secretary of the Senate out of the contingent fund of the Senate, such contingent fund to be reimbursed from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives in the amount of one-half of the disbursements so made.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD -- July 15, 1953. ²⁰ *jk*

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON
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